

## **REMARKS**

### **1. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1, 5, and 17-18 are herein amended. Claims 2-4 and 15-16 are canceled. Claims 19-31 are newly added. Claims 1, 5-14, 17-31 are currently pending in the Application. Applicant believes that the rejections contained in the Office Action have been overcome as discussed below.

### **2. Amendments to the Specification**

Applicant has amended the specification to address the domed, vaulted, or arched configuration of the base 10. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added because any "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter," MPEP § 2163.06, and such base configuration is shown in the originally filed drawings.

### **3. Response to Drawing Objections**

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show the set screw oriented radially to the column end. Applicant has canceled the claims referring to this feature. Applicant notes that claims or elements of claims directed to receiving a set screw have not been canceled, as set screw holes 95 are referenced in Figures 1 and 3.

### **4. Summary of Rejections**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,010,922 ("Heller") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,517,043

("Cahill"). The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heller in view Cahill and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,680,732 ("Skouras"). The Examiner also rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heller in view Cahill and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,081,012 ("Wallace").

#### **5. Response to Claim Rejections**

On August 7, 2006, the Examiner, the Primary Examiner, and Applicant's Attorney participated in a telephone interview to discuss the distinguishing features of the present invention. Based on the results of the interview, Applicant here presents amended claims which include the discussed limitations for independent claim 1 in combination with claims 3 and 4 and to overcome the cited prior art references.

Applicant has combined the elements and limitations of original claims 1-4 into independent claim 1 and has further amended the resulting claim 1 to indicate that the base has a "dome configuration." Based on discussions during the August 7, 2006 interview, Applicant respectfully submits that Heller, Cahill, Skouras, and Wallace do not teach, disclose, or suggest "a base with a dome configuration" and therefore claim 1 is not obvious in light of any combination of those cited references. Since claims 5-14 and 17-18 depend from and include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 5-14, and 17-18.

Applicant has also added claims 19-31. Applicant has combined the elements and limitations of original claims 1-4 into new independent claim 19 and has further added that "each of the plurality of unitary support veins is located on the underside of the base." Based again on

discussions during the August 7, 2006 interview, Applicant respectfully submits that Heller, Cahill, Skouras, and Wallace do not teach, disclose, or suggest a base with a plurality of unitary support veins located on the underside of the base and therefore claim 19 is not obvious in light of any combination of the cited references. Since claims 20-31 depend from and include all of the limitations of claim 19, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow claims 19-31.


### CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1, 5-14, 17-31 of the present application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests notice to this effect. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative below if any questions arise or if he may be of assistance to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date:

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